

CAPSULE SUMMARY

BA-1043

300 E. Pennsylvania Avenue

East Towson, Baltimore County

Circa 1900

Private

The single family dwelling at 300 East Pennsylvania Avenue was constructed circa 1900 in the East Towson neighborhood of Baltimore County. The history of East Towson dates from the purchase of one-and-a-quarter acres of land by Daniel Harris in September 1853. This is believed to be the first documented African-American landholding in Towson, and is among the oldest such ethnic enclave in Baltimore County. Further, manumitted slaves and/or descendents of former slaves, many of who were owned by Charles Ridgely, populated the neighborhood. Hampered by the low economic status of the residents, development in the 19th century was slow, increasing after the turn of the 20th century. The setting of the property, building styles, and construction materials were guided by the limited economic status of the residents and their desire to establish a neighborhood of their own without the assistance of white architects, builders, and craftsmen. By 1927, the community was ninety-five percent improved with single-family dwellings, social buildings, a school, and religious structures. Many of the current homeowners and tenants living in the neighborhood are descendents of the first African-American residents.

The wood frame Queen Anne-style dwelling is constructed on a random rubble stone foundation and rises two-and-a-half stories in height. The house has been reclad in asbestos shingles and the gable ends feature square butt and diamond-shaped wood shingles. The façade of the dwelling is dominated by the projecting gable bay and the one-story wrap-around front porch. Supported by square wood posts, the porch presents three bays across the façade and two bays deep. The first story façade, or north elevation, features two elongated 2/2 double-hung windows with square edged wood surrounds and sills and a single-leaf, panel-and-light door with a two-light transom. These openings are mimicked at the second story by three 2/2 double-hung sash windows, also with wood surrounds and sills. In addition to the decorative wood shingling, an aluminum encased cornice with returns and a round-arched 2/2 double-hung window further details the gable end. Two central interior brick chimneys rise above the cross gable roof, which is clad in asphalt shingles.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA- 1043

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic

other William Bishop House

2. Location

street and number 300 E. Pennsylvania Avenue not for publication

city, town Baltimore vicinity

county Baltimore County

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Abdun-nur Ibn Dawud (a/k/a Bishop William Edward, Sr.)

street and number 300 E. Pennsylvania Avenue telephone Not Available

city, town Baltimore state MD zip code 21286-5313

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore County Courthouse liber 11914 folio 84

city, town Towson tax map 70A tax parcel 54 tax ID number 902370110

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
☐ Other: _____

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
			1

7. Description

Inventory No. BA- 1043

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The circa 1900 Queen Anne-style dwelling is located at 300 East Pennsylvania Avenue. Set at the south corner of East Pennsylvania Avenue and Jefferson Avenue, the level lot is surrounded by metal fencing. Constructed on a random rubble stone foundation, the wood frame dwelling rises two-and-a-half stories in height. The house has been reclad in asbestos shingles and the gable ends feature square butt and diamond-shaped wood shingles. The façade of the dwelling is dominated by the projecting gable bay and the one-story wrap-around front porch. Supported by square wood posts, the porch presents three bays across the façade and two bays deep. The first story façade, or north elevation, features two elongated 2/2 double-hung windows with square edged wood surrounds and sills and a single-leaf, panel-and-light door with a two-light transom. These openings are mimicked at the second story by three 2/2 double-hung sash windows, also with wood surrounds and sills. In addition to the decorative wood shingling, an aluminum encased cornice with returns and a round-arched 2/2 double-hung window further details the gable end. Two central interior brick chimneys rise above the cross gable roof, which is clad in asphalt shingles.

8. Significance

Inventory No. BA-1043

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Specific dates 1900 ca.

Architect/Builder Unknown

Construction dates 1900 ca.

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

The circa 1900 Queen Anne-style dwelling is located at 300 East Pennsylvania Avenue in East Towson. East Towson is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history, specifically the pre-Civil War development of an African-American neighborhood in a predominately white community. The history of this property dates from the purchase of one-and-a-quarter acres of land by Daniel Harris in September 1853. This is believed to be the first documented African-American landholding in Towson, and is among the oldest such ethnic enclave in Baltimore County. Further, manumitted slaves and/or descendents of former slaves, many of who were owned by Charles Ridgely, populated the neighborhood. Hampered by the low economic status of the residents, development in the 19th century was slow, increasing after the turn of the 20th century. The setting of the property, building styles, and construction materials were guided by the limited economic status of the residents and their desire to establish a neighborhood of their own without the assistance of white architects, builders, and craftsmen. By 1927, the community was ninety-five percent improved with single-family dwellings, social buildings, a school, and religious structures. Many of the current homeowners and tenants living in the neighborhood are descendents of the first African-American residents.

East Towson as a whole is representative of an important phase of architectural development in Baltimore County, illustrating the dilution of popular architectural styles to more efficiently meet the needs of the neighborhood, and the builders' untrained abilities to execute the fashionable ornamentation. Thus, East Towson provided lower cost housing in a more suburban neighborhood, rather than the urban setting their economic status typically perpetuated.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. BA-1043

Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland. Philadelphia, PA: G. M. Hopkins, 1877.

Baltimore County Historic Inventory.

Brooks, Neal A. and Eric G. Rockel. *A History of Baltimore County.* Towson, MD: Friends of the Towson Library, Inc., 1979.

Map of Baltimore County. Philadelphia, PA: G. W. Bromley, 1915.

Scharf, J. Thomas. *History of Baltimore City and County From the Earliest Period to the Present Day: Including Biographical Sketches of Their Representative Men.* Philadelphia, PA: Louis H. Everts, 1881. Reprinted by Higginson Book Company, Salem, MA.

Sidney, J. C. *Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland, from Original Surveys.* Baltimore, MD: James M. Stephens, 1850.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property .2 Acre

Acreage of historical setting Unknown

Quadrangle name Towson

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The house is located at 300 East Pennsylvania Avenue in East Towson, Baltimore County, Maryland. It has historically been associated with Tax Map 70A, Parcel 54 since its construction circa 1900.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	R. Weidlich, K. Baynard, and J. Bunting, Architectural Historians		
organization	EHT Tracerics, Incorporated	date	November 1, 2001
street & number	1121 5th Street NW	telephone	202.393.1199
city or town	Washington	state	DC

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

East Towson: Planimetric Data



Prepared by:
Baltimore County Office of Planning
401 Bosley Avenue
Towson, Maryland 21204
June, 2001



Scale

1 inch = 200 feet

1:2400

100 0 100 200 Feet

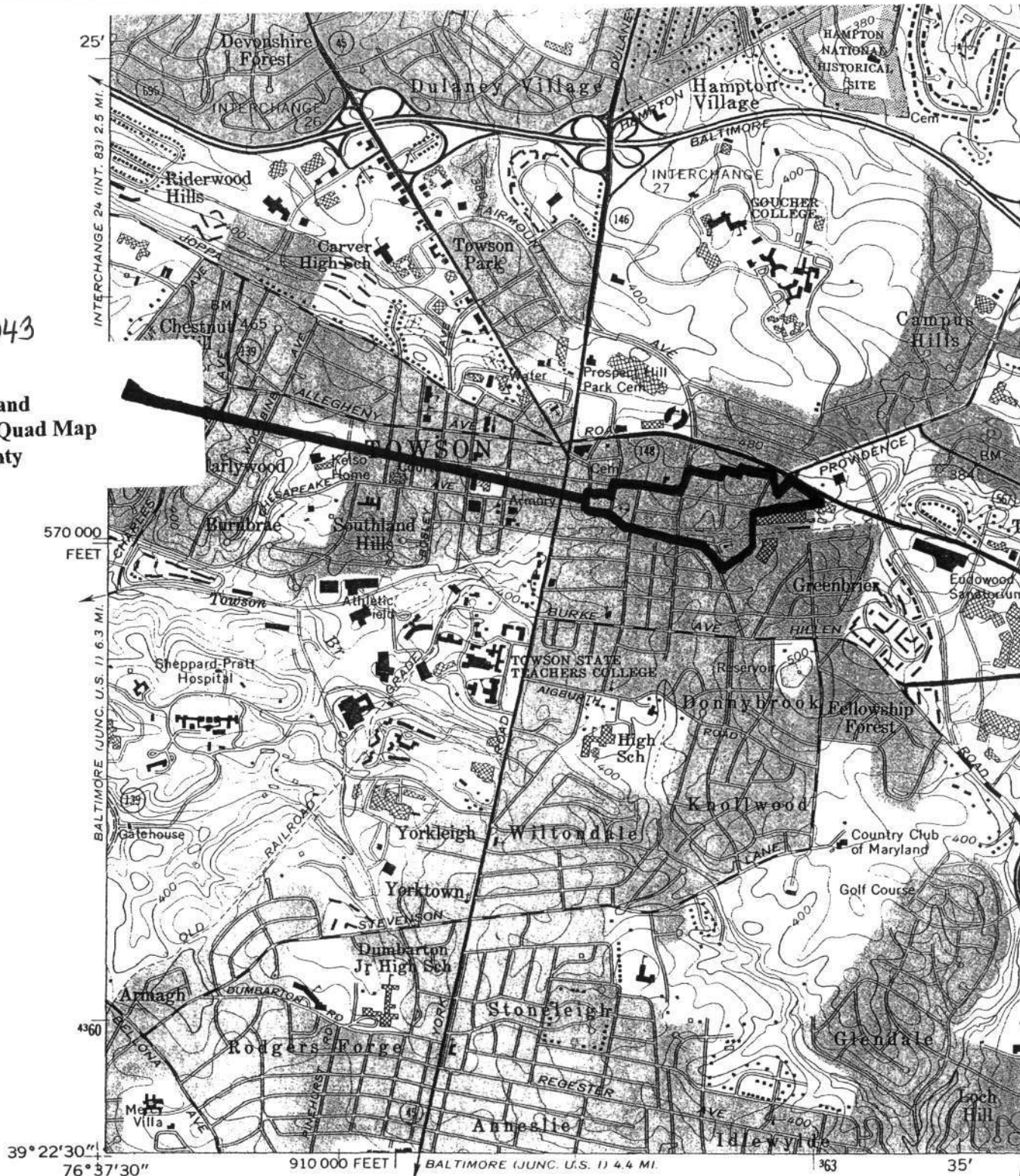
Legend

- | | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Paved Roads | Study Area Boundary | Hydrographic Features |
| Unpaved Roads | Buildings | Vegetation |
| Paved Parking / Driveways | | |

Data Sources:
Planimetric Data: Baltimore County OIT GIS Services Unit (1:2400)
Parcel Boundaries: Baltimore County OIT GIS Services Unit (1:2400)
Study Area: Baltimore County Office of Planning (1:2400)
Coordinate System:
Maryland State Plane: NAD83/91 Horizontal Datum
Elevations in Feet: NAVD86 Vertical Datum
Date of Data Capture: March 1996
Scale of Data Capture: 1" = 100'

BA-1043

East Towson
Towson, Maryland
Towson USGS Quad Map
Baltimore County



(BALTIMORE WEST)
5662' SW

Mapped by the Army Map Service
Edited and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS, USC&GS, USCE, and Maryland
Bureau of Control Surveys and Maps

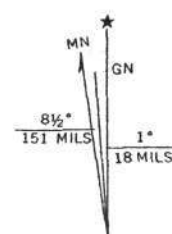
Culture and drainage in part compiled from aerial photographs
taken 1943. Topography by planetable surveys 1944
Culture revised by the Geological Survey 1957

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Maryland coordinate system
1000-metre Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 18, shown in blue

Red tint indicates areas in which only
landmark buildings are shown

Revisions shown in purple compiled by the Geological Survey from
aerial photographs taken 1966 and 1974. This information not
field checked

Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas



UTM GRID AND 1974 MAGNETIC NORTH
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET



ONE WAY

BA-1043

HOUSE, 300 EAST PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

EHT TRACERIES

10/2001

MD SHPO

NORTHWEST CORNER LOOKING SOUTHEAST
1 OF 3



BA-1043

HOUSE, 300 EAST PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

EHT TRACERIES

10/2001
MD SHPO

SOUTHWEST CORNER LOOKING NORTHEAST

2 OF 3



BA-1043

HOUSE, 300 EAST PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

EHT TRACERIES

10/2001

MD SHPO

NORTHEAST CORNER LOOKING SOUTHWEST

3 OF 3

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

THE WILLIAM BISHOP HOUSE

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 300 Pennsylvania Ave.

second

CITY, TOWN

Towson Md. 21204

VICINITY OF

Baltimore

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

COUNTY

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT
☐ BUILDING(S)
☒ STRUCTURE
☐ SITE
☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC
☒ PRIVATE
☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED
☐ UNOCCUPIED
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS
☒ ACCESSIBLE
☐ YES: RESTRICTED
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED
☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE ☐ MUSEUM
☐ COMMERCIAL ☐ PARK
☐ EDUCATIONAL ☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
☐ ENTERTAINMENT ☐ RELIGIOUS
☐ GOVERNMENT ☐ SCIENTIFIC
☐ INDUSTRIAL ☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ MILITARY ☐ OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

William Bishop

Telephone #: 823-7383

STREET & NUMBER

300 Pennsylvania Ave

CITY, TOWN

Towson Md. 21204

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Baltimore County Courthouse

Liber #:

Folio #: 1450:449

STREET & NUMBER

401 Bosley Ave.

CITY, TOWN

Towson Md. 21204

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

BA-1043 - 300 Pennsylvania

before 1915

This attractive two-story frame house consists of two gabled sections crossing perpendicularly. Each gable end is two bays wide. The western gable projects only a foot or two, while the other gables each project one bay from the central block. A porch shades the street facade. The house rests on a raised stone cellar.

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

300 Pa.

This stylish two-story frame house was built between 1898 and 1915. It consists of two gabled sections forming a T, with the gable from the east leg of the T crossing the main gable to roof a shallow rectangular bay on the west. The eaves line and barge boards of the house are finished with a nicely molded cornice. Each of the four gables is lit by an arched 2/2 window and is sheathed in square and diamond-shaped wooden shingles. The south, or rear, gable is the exception in that it is covered with clapboards. The rest of the house is now covered with grey asbestos shingles.

The house rests on a raised cellar of cut stone blocks. An exterior entrance is located at the south end of the main section. Two six-pane cellar lights appear at either end of the west side. A 2/2 window lights each floor above. The bay on this side is lit by two windows on each floor. A window on each floor lights the south gable.

A shed-roofed porch fills the southeast corner of the house. A door is located in the east wall. A narrow two-story addition between the porch and the south side of the east facing section has a window on each floor of its east side. At the first floor level of the east gable, three attached windows follow the ascent of the stair within. A window on the second floor has three panes, one above the other.

The street side of the house presents a refined facade. The second floor is lit by two windows in the north gable and one in the north side of the eastward-facing section. A one-story hip-roofed porch runs across the front of the gable end and back to the side of the east gable. Its square posts intersect hand and foot rails. Two x's of thin 1'x1' wooden members cross each section between the posts. Two elegant floor-to-ceiling 2/2 sash windows light the gable end. At the east side of this gable a window lights each floor. The front door, which is topped by a two-pane transom, is located on the north side of the east gable. All the architraves are simple flat boards.

The house is set on a large corner lot with attractive shade trees.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE**PERIOD**

☐ PREHISTORIC
☐ 1400-1499
☐ 1500-1599
☐ 1600-1699
☐ 1700-1799
☐ 1800-1899
☐ 1900-

☐ ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC
☐ ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC
☐ AGRICULTURE
☐ ARCHITECTURE
☐ ART
☐ COMMERCE
☐ COMMUNICATIONS

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

☐ COMMUNITY PLANNING
☐ CONSERVATION
☐ ECONOMICS
☐ EDUCATION
☐ ENGINEERING
☐ EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT
☐ INDUSTRY
☐ INVENTION

☐ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
☐ LAW
☐ LITERATURE
☐ MILITARY
☐ MUSIC
☐ PHILOSOPHY
☐ POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

☐ RELIGION
☐ SCIENCE
☐ SCULPTURE
☐ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
☐ THEATER
☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)

SPECIFIC DATES**BUILDER/ARCHITECT****STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

Emma P. Maddox purportedly built this house around 1895, she later sold the house to James Kelly in 1900. Twenty years later James Kelly sold the house to Harry and Bertha Greaser (July 13, 1921). Harry Greaser sold the property to William E. Bishop in 1946. William Bishop family has retained the property since that time.

This building is an example of the proliferation of Blacks in the E. Towson area that took place around the turn of the century.

Land Records of Baltimore County Liber Folio 209-212
 247-213
 540-551
 1450-447
 1450-448
 1450-449

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Marcus Pollock/coordinator Merry Stinson/architect 7/77

ORGANIZATION

Committee to Save E. Towson/Towson Ymca

DATE

823-8870

STREET & NUMBER

600 W. Chesapeake Ave.

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Towson Md. 21204

STATE

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438